

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2010

Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 0501
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

The Associated Press reported on August 19, 2010 the presence of two metal bridges across the Rio Grande River, separating the United States from Mexico, that lack adequate security and provide quick and easy access into our country for illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and possibly even terrorists. We ask that you promptly work with the International Boundary and Water Commission, which maintains these bridges near Acala, Texas, to either fully secure or remove them.

The presence of these two bridges highlights the failure of the federal government to secure our borders. American taxpayers have spent billions of dollars on border security measures, including fencing. Yet, not far from a section of fencing, these bridges undermine efforts to secure the border and frustrate taxpayers who want to see border security addressed in a comprehensive and competent manner.

We understand the U.S. Border Patrol monitors these bridges. Yet, in the absence of gates or more robust security measures to prevent illegal crossings, the bridges undermine border security. Unobstructed or unmanned bridges should not exist along the border. We ask that you assist Border Patrol agents in their work to secure the border by taking immediate action to fully secure or remove these two footbridges, and any others that may similarly exist.

Our borders must be secured. Please work with the International Boundary and Water Commission to rectify this gap in border security.

Sincerely,



JERRY MORAN
Member of Congress



DAN BURTON
Member of Congress



LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress



BOB GOODLATTE
Member of Congress



ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress



LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress